

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reevaluation and further processing of the application is requested. Prior to amendment herewith, Claims 1-13 were pending in the application. By amendment herewith, Claims 1-9 have been canceled and new Claims 14-18 have been added. Claims 10-18 are now pending in the application. Applicant has also amended the specification to add a statement regarding federally supported research.

In the Office Action, the Examiner restricted the invention to the following groups of claims:

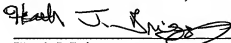
- I. Claims 1-9, drawn to an apparatus for the treatment of off gases, classified in class 266, subclass 156; and
- II. Claims 10-13, drawn to a carbothermic aluminum production process including off gas treatment, classified in class 75; subclass 674.

Applicant hereby elects to prosecute the Group II claims, namely Claims 10-13. New Claims 14-18 have been added to this group and are dependent, either directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 10. Thus, Claims 10-18 are now pending in the application.

In light of the above remarks, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone call would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP



Heath J. Briggs
Registration No. 54,919
1200 17th Street, Suite 2400
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: (303) 572-6500
Fax: (303) 572-6540

Date: April 25, 2006